

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 00900 241105Z
ACTION NODS-00

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S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 0900

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: MASS, US, SO
SUBJ: SIAD ACCEPTS ARMS SUPPLY TERMS; CALLS FOR DECLARATION ON THE
HORN

REF: MOGADISCIO 0865

1. SIAD CALLED ME TO HIS RESIDENCE SUNDAY EVENING, APRIL 23, TO HAND ME THE LETTER ACCEPTING THE TERMS FOR ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP (SEPTEL) AND TO APPEAL AGAIN FOR A US DECLARATION AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL TO RESTRAIN THE SOVIET UNION ON THE HORN OF AFRICA. IN A SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL DEPARTURE, HE HAD WITH HIM POLITBURO MEMBER AND CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY SERVICE, AHMED SULEIMAN ABDULLE, AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR GENERAL MOHAMED SHERIF MAHMOUD. AHMED SULEIMAN CONFINED HIS COMMENTS TO DJIBOUTI (SEPTEL) AND MOHAMED SHERIF TOOK NO PART IN THE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION. SIAD REPEATED MANY OF HIS FORMER ARGUMENTS AND HISTORICAL ASIDES. I INCLUDE THEM IN THIS REPORT TO GIVE THE FULL FLAVOR OF THE MEETING.

2. THE SOMALI LEADER RETURNED TO THE THEME HE STRESSED IN OUR APRIL 19 MEETING. HE OPENED HIS REMARKS BY WONDERING WHY THERE HAS BEEN NO CLEAR STATEMENT FROM THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE USG ON THE CONTINUED THREAT TO PEACE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA RESULTING FROM THE PRESENCE OF 17,000

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MERCENARY CUBANS DIRECTED BY THE USSR AND BACKED BY THE PDY AND THE WARSAW PACT. HE SAID HE HAD HOPED THE USG WOULD BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF A JOINT WESTERN DENUNCIATION OF SOVIET AND BLOC ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA. WHEN SIAD ACTUALLY HANDED OVER HIS LETTER, HE WONDERED ALOUD WHETHER US AUTHORITIES REALLY UNDERSTOOD THE SOMALI LOVE FOR LIBERTY AND THEIR PASSIONATE PURSUIT OF A

TOTALLY NATIONALIST AND INDEPENDENT POLICY.

3. SIAD THEN DIGRESSED ON THE HISTORICAL PATH, ASSERTING THE USG WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE UNDERSTANDING HAD IT NOT SUPPORTED A FEUDAL EMPIRE IN ETHIOPIA FOR MORE THAN 35 YEARS. HE SAID IN TIME THE ERROR OF BEING THE FIRST TO INTRODUCE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS IN THE HORN WOULD BE UNDONE. HE COMPLAINED THAT THERE ARE US LEADERS WHO FAIL TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT CHANGED SINCE 1917 OR 1945. SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ARE STILL LED BY DEVIOUS TACTICS OR THE CLEAR IMPOSITION OF MOSCOW'S WILL, HE CONTENDED, NO MATTER WHAT IS SAID TO THE WEST, TO THE NON-ALIGNED, OR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

4. DISCUSSING HIS OWN COUNTRY'S IMAGE, SIAD ADMITTED SOMALIA WAS TARNISHED AS A RESULT OF ITS LONG SOVIET CONNECTION. BUT HE CONTINUED, WE DID RECOGNIZE SOVIET IMPERIALISM AND THREW THE RASCALS OUT, NOVEMBER 13, 1977. WE DID WITHDRAW FROM THE OGADEN, AND WE HAVE SIGNED THE LETTER OF NON-USE OF FORCE, HE CONTINUED. STILL, SIAD ARGUED, THE WESTERN LEADERSHIP AIDS MOSCOW'S EFFORTS TO PENETRATE THE HORN, HARMING THE INTEREST OF THE WEST TO SAY NOTHING OF RETARDING AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT. THE SOMALI LEADER BROUGHT HIS POLEMIC TO A CLOSE WITH AN APPEAL THAT PRESIDENT CARTER RECOGNIZE THE POTENTIAL FOR DANGER IN THE AREA AND STAY THE SOVIET HAND WITH A CLEAR STATE-
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MENT, THUS PAVING THE WAY FOR THE OTHER WESTERN ALLIES TO FOLLOW.

5. MY SEVERAL REJOINDERS TO SIAD'S REMARKS WENT LARGELY UNHEEDED. I POINTED OUT THAT SECRETARY VANCE HAD AGAIN CALLED FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES IN HIS CENTO SPEECH, THE VERY DAY SIAD LAST CALLED FOR A HIGH LEVEL USG STATEMENT. SIAD SEEMED DETERMINED, HOWEVER TO MAKE HIS POINTS.

6. I RAISED THE MILITARY SURVEY MISSION WITH HIM AGAIN. HE WAS NO MORE ENTHUSIASTIC AT THIS SESSION THAN HE WAS ON THE 19TH, BUT HE SAID HE HAD GIVEN HIS WORD, AND THE MISSION WOULD BE WELCOME. I DID NOT PUSH FOR A DATE. THE SOMALI PRESIDENT DID NOT ASK ME TO DISCUSS THE IMPACT LIST. I DID NOT MENTION IT, BUT ONLY REFERRED AGAIN TO THE BEGINNING OF A PROCESS WHERE TRUST WOULD HAVE TO BE MANIFEST ON BOTH SIDES.

7. COMMENT: I DO NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND WHY SIAD TOOK SUCH A CRITICAL LINE IN OUR DISCUSSION. HE WAS CALM THROUGHOUT; THERE WAS NO EMOTIONALISM. OF COURSE EVERY

ENCOUNTER WITH SIAD HAS SOME ELEMENTS OF THEATER. I AM
HALF INCLINED TO BELIEVE THE PERFORMANCE MAY HAVE BEEN
IN PART FOR THE BENEFIT OF SULEIMAN AND SHERIF. SIAD
ACQUIESCED IN OUR TERMS, BUT NO WITNESS TO THIS SESSION
COULD SAY HE DID SO SUPINELY. I DO NOT INTEND TO
RAISE THE LIST WITH HIM UNTIL I HAVE THE REVISION PRO-
MISED IN STATE 103891. IN THE INTERIM I ASSUME THE
DEPT WILL PRESS FORWARD WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE
FMS ELIGIBILITY. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO ME IF I COULD
HAVE SOME APPROXIMATE TIMETABLE FOR THIS STEP, AS WELL
AS A DELIVERY DATE FOR THE IMPACT PACKAGE, A PROPOSED
DATE FOR THE MILITARY SURVEY MISSION, AND AN IDEA OF
WHEN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EUROPEANS AND FRIENDLY
ARAB COUNTRIES MAY BEGIN.

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